

CLASS WAR

would you piss on these two if they were on fire?

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DIFFERENT FACES SAME SHIT!

Class War PO Box 467 London E8

ANIMAL FARM

The scenes of carnage across Britain, with mounds of burning animals, has been constantly portrayed on our TV screens as some sort of cruel to be kind, stiff upper lip, spirit of the blitz policy, aimed at protecting animals. Nothing could be further from the truth. Profit, not animal welfare, is the sole motive for the mass culling.

We are rarely informed of it, and many people do not even know it, but the truth is that foot and mouth disease is not fatal to animals. Humans cannot catch it at all. Left to its own devices, the animal will recover, without even assistance from a vet.

Why then the slaughter of infected and even uninfected animals? While the animals have foot and mouth, they cannot be sold. The disease takes time to run its course and while it does it spreads, amongst other animals in a similar way to flu. As animals cannot be sold profits collapse. To maintain profit the policy is to contain the epidemic via strict segregation and mass slaughter.

Immunisation to prevent foot and mouth is not only possible (something rarely stated on our TV screens in recent months) but common in many parts of the world. However as there has been no major outbreak in Britain since 1967 our government and much of Europe has

decided it is cheaper not to mass immunise animals but to stand the cost of mass slaughter if and when it breaks out. Needless to say it is not the government of the farmers that will meet the cost of this decision, but you and me, the taxpayer.

A second result of the outbreak has been a mass clamp down on movement. In some places military style exclusion zones are enforced with such rigidity we wonder if we risk being shot for challenging them. So called rights of way have been closed everywhere. If we have a 'right' but that 'right' can be taken away with the stroke of an official's pen, without consultation or consent, then the truth is we never had any such right in the first place. We were simply allowed a temporary privilege (in this case to walk on this green and pleasant land) until the powers that be deemed it inconvenient and took the privilege away. On a wider scale we have seen this happen in Northern Ireland in the past with the right to a jury trial removed and even in the 1970s imprisonment without trial.

Always question what the ruling class tells you. Especially the tales deemed to be common sense, accepted wisdom or "expert opinion".



"Further to our meetings and discussions with them, we are offering the Bloomsbury Forum our full support of the Freedom Party. The leadership team consists of successful businessmen and top civil servants. The accounts will be run by a lecturer and audited by a certified accountant. A board of trustees has been set up, headed by an esteemed barrister" *Former British National Party high fliers Steve and Sharon Edwards encouraging BNP members to jump ship to a new far-right party. They are very easily impressed by people with posh jobs aren't they?*

SCARING THE HORSES?



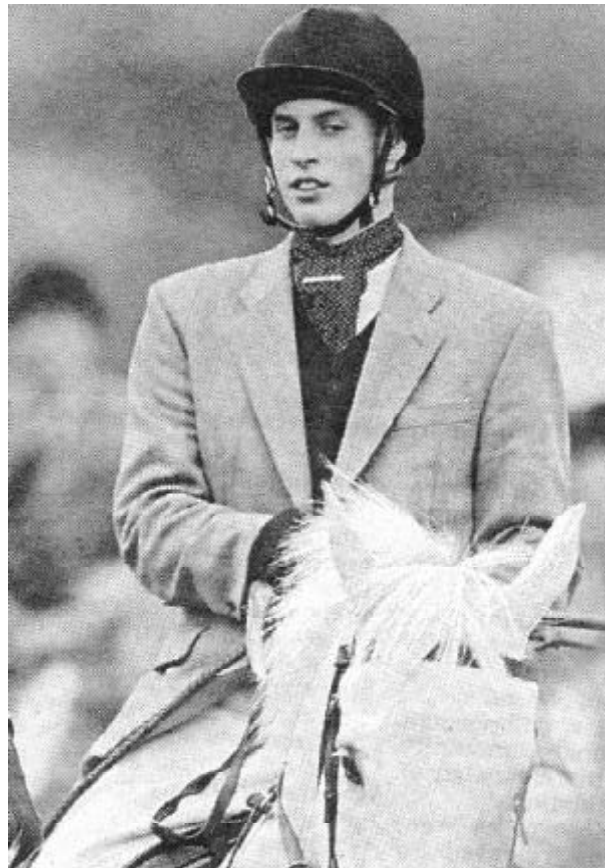
The not guilty verdict for Vincent Bethell, the "right to be naked" protestor, is probably more significant than it at first appears. Whatever you think of Mr Bethell or his protests, this was the first time he had appeared before a jury. On every occasion he had appeared before a magistrate he had been found guilty.

The police, Crown Prosecution Service and Jack 'Boots' Straw want to limit the number of jury trials precisely because jury's are more likely to return verdicts like this than some reactionary old tosser of a magistrate.

What's the betting that the next time Mr Bethell is arrested the charge is deliberately framed so as it can only be heard at a magistrates court?

THE UNIVERSITY OF LIFE

In September Prince William is expected to start his studies at St Andrews University in Scotland, one of Britain's oldest and poshest educational establishments. Whilst the media circus around William serves to reinforce the view that the royals realise he is their last good chance of maintaining a constitutional monarchy in the UK, they are not exactly attempting to convince us that William is just another student, or just another teenager.



Firstly the principal of St Andrews is actually moving house so as William can be accommodated more securely! Dr Brian Lang is moving out of his baronial mansion close to St Andrews golf course so that the School of Art History can be located in the mansion. Here William will take his studies, when not murdering local wildlife with the various blood sports societies based at the university. Should William tire of the atmosphere around St Andrews and his rooms in snooty St Salvator's College, The Queen Mother has thankfully given him use of a hunting lodge she owns on the Birkhall estate in Balmoral. How many homes does the old bag have? Given the lack of affordable homes in rural areas for working class people, and rural Scotland's long history as a playground for the rich, the message from the royals is the same as ever.

We have a message for the royal spin-doctors. You may be able to convince some people that William is Britain's most eligible bachelor and that he is the best thing since sliced bread. It will be a lot easier for us to convince people he's just another idle royal parasite.

PANTS TO COMIC RELIEF

Thank you to the BBC and hundreds of fading celebrities and entertainers for inflicting yet another Comic Relief on us all in March. Has it never occurred to the likes of Lenny Henry, Bob Geldof, Vanessa Feltz etc that if charity could solve people's problems it would have done so by now? Does anybody seriously believe Africa (to take an example) is a healthier and more prosperous continent now than it was before Live Aid? Of course it is not. People are poor, people are sick people are fucked over because of global capitalism, not because Mrs Smith of Congleton has failed to send £10 to an appeal fronted by Boyzone.

What has become so offensive about Comic Relief is the way so many big employers, and their personnel departments use it as a day to show how

much they care. Companies in the city that spend 364 days a year pillaging the earth are suddenly devoting one day to saving it.

Anybody in the office who does not want to wear a big red nose and a pair of silly pants is instantly labelled as at best a misery guts, at worst as some sort of inadequate who cannot relate to his or her colleagues. Even worse is the way the biggest wankers in senior management are portrayed as incredibly zany generous guys because for one day a year they wear a silly shirt, donate £50 and allow a few of the junior ranks to have a drink in the office.

Class War would like to work with others to organise a national phone in sick day on the next Comic Relief is upon us. Join us.

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EDITORIAL

There are currently a lot of right wing wankers mouthing off about 'what a hard time they're having'. Whether its Richard Littlejohn in The Sun and his pathetic version of English identity; the farmers, the foxhunters, the hauliers, William Hague or the numerous other Anti Europe Save the Pound brigade. Of course this sounds very much like the main groups of people who benefitted from the Thatcher years, selfish one and all.

With the election you can either vote for True Blue Tories who screw the powerless, or Labour who do it a bit more subtly. No wonder there is no enthusiasm for an election, given the range of no choice on offer. The Vote for Nobody Campaign is a good way to deal with the forthcoming charade. Check www.geocities.com/votenobody/

One new development this time round are the various Socialist Alliance candidates. Last time these activists campaigned for people to vote for Tony Blair. They were wrong then – why should we believe them this time round?

On the legal front, Straw, Blair and co continue moving the country to the right. Blair has got away with far more in his first term as Prime Minister than Thatcher did in hers. Ironically the Prevention of Terrorism Act came into force alongside a media panic about animal rights terrorists whilst Farmers in

Cumbria were waving guns about in broad daylight against government officials - why are we not hearing about "Terrorist farmers"? Is this because it doesn't fit in with the right wing agenda Blair and the media are currently following?

Where Next?

What happens after the election though? With friends we're gonna be at the cutting edge of class struggle, as usual, where ever it can be found. Whether it's at the anti G8/ International Monetary Fund gatherings or confronting the Countryside Alliance. The first because they control the world capitalist economy that oppresses us all, the second because they are led by a bunch of rich reactionaries who want the countryside for themselves when really it belongs to us all.

There are a lot of local campaigns that need to be done as well, maybe you will be fighting the bosses in your workplace, attacking penny pinching councils like Hackney, or helping other struggles where ever they can be found - like that of prisoner Mark Barnsley. The only answer to ruling class attacks is to encourage, and take part in fight back. Just do it!



MONKS BREAKS VOW OF SILENCE

John Monks, General Secretary of the T.U.C. has called for a review of rules which exempt businesses with fewer than twenty one employees from holding a ballot on union recognition. It is believed this law effectively excludes between five and eight million workers from union membership. The G.P.M.U. print union has found itself particularly vulnerable because of this loophole. One firm split it's thirty eight workers into two separate firms and another broke the company down into eight different entities which led to the application for union recognition being withdrawn.

Monks has also called for an end to the practice of abstentions being counted as "no" votes in recognition ballots. The Labour Party has pledged to review the act after it has been in operation for a period in time. However no worth should be attached to yet another Labour pledge as in

the past four years they have shown themselves time and time again to be on the side of business in any confrontation with workers.

The crocodile tears of Monks should be seen in the light of his invitations, readily accepted, to bosses organisation, the C.B.I. to send it's Director General to speak at the annual T.U.C. conference. This cosy relationship has worked both ways with Monks addressing the parasites of the C.B.I. in a true spirit of 'partnership' at their annual worker bashing shindig.

No doubt Monks has his eye on the prize of a seat among the 'vermin in ermine' in the House of Lords just like so many of his predecessors. Don't expect John Monks to rock the boat too much on this one.

GUILTY, BUT PROUD OF IT!

A small, but interesting article appeared in *The Nursing Times* in March. The piece dealt with a study entitled 'Income Inequality and the prevalence of common mental disorders in Britain. (Weich. S, et al. 2001).

The study assessed over 8,000 adults in the U.K. and found that wealthy people living in areas of high income inequality suffered higher levels of mental disorder.

The authors suggest that wealthy people living near poor areas may experience 'guilt or unease about

the relative disadvantage of others'. And all this time we thought it was just down to inbreeding, cocaine and alcoholism.

The best thing these overpaid underworked parasites could do would be to hand over all their ill gotten cash to us, then commit guilt free mass suicide. The worst thing they could do is become so guilt ridden that they try to involve themselves in working class movements and imagine they are doing something to help. George Monbiot and your land owning family, your money or your worthless, middle-class life!

JOURNO WATCH

Back in November 1999 a demonstration was organised at somewhat short notice at Euston Station to coincide with the huge N30 event in Seattle. At the time Class War felt somewhat pessimistic about the chances of taking on the huge police operation on the day and decided to stay at home and watch it on the telly. Given the events that evening we were probably right, although it did not stop the "reporters" at ITN's Tonight With Trevor MacDonald claiming we were not only present but helped organise the event!

Amongst the many people injured on the evening by the police was a journalist, Danny Penman. Penman apparently attended that evening because he had received an anonymous tip-off that fascists from C18 would be present (that he took this seriously perhaps shows the level of Penman's intelligence) After having his arm broken by the cops he circulated many activist groups appealing for witnesses. Sadly when Mr Penman was approached to help defendants arrested that evening, he refused point blank. Journalists are often described as being parasitical on the anti-capitalist movement but they are rarely as blatant as Danny Penman.

We are also aware of a female "independent reporter" who was extremely reluctant to assist several anti-fascists arrested in London last year, even though she held important video evidence. You know who you are, we know who you are. Do not expect to be allowed to film at ANY demonstrations in London again.

After every big demonstration the

police trot out mug shots of alleged rioters. To do this they not only have to get their own camera crews in place, but they rely on photographers and journalists from both the national media and so-called "independent journalists".

Class War believes that anyone taking photographs without permission at a demonstration is a threat to the security of that demonstration. We urge all activists to think very carefully about people filming around them, and to be particularly cautious about the never ending stream of sympathetic independent journalists doing the rounds.

Journo Watch 2 – News Of The Screws

In the last Class War we carried a quote about Neville Thurlbeck, the News of the World crime correspondent who is a registered police informer. We suspect the same goes for many of his colleagues. Thurlbeck, who uses the pseudonym Ray Levene amongst others, specialises in the seedy tales that have characterised the News of the World for a generation. Normally their reporter visits some respectable suburban house for the Women's Institute coffee morning, discovers it is in fact a knocking shop, and rushes back to London to file his story usually ending his report of suburban sex with the cliché "our reporter made his excuses and left".

A visit to the website <http://www.lifestyles-america.com/bobandsue> however, shows Mr Thurlbeck in one of his sting operations (pictures we cannot repeat in a family newspaper like Class War) Suspicious of Thurlbeck two masseurs filmed him covertly. Whatever it is he is doing on their film and the website he is certainly not making his

excuses and leaving! Indeed the somewhat anti-gay News of the World would certainly not approve of some of the goings on!

Still with the close protection of the police and the Press Complaints Commission Thurlbeck will no doubt continue doing his thing – setting up members of the public for prosecution and humiliation.



IF THEY HAD BRAINS THEY WOULD BE DANGEROUS

Hello and welcome to our regular column that investigates the brainless bumbling of the tick blue line. Thanks to everyone who sent in news and cuttings – more please!

We start with **West Yorkshire** police who had hoped to hold a meeting on competency at Keighley Police Station. Sadly incompetence was the order of the day and Keighley's finest were unable to meet following a mix up over the dates. Class War understands that a future class, where officers will be shown diagrams helping them to locate the human elbow and the human arse, is being specially organised.

Next up come the **British Transport Police**, who certainly believe that schools out for summer! An embarrassing wobbly has been thrown by Phillip Barnard, Headmaster of Pimlico School, who noticed increased truancy rates at his school in the afternoon's. Mr Barnard's pupils were eventually found spending their afternoon's on identity parades organised by the BTP at Victoria Station. It certainly beats double maths!



As everybody knows *ruff justice!* there are no stupid dog, only stupid owners. Proof of this comes from **Cleveland Police**, who have had to pay £16,500 compensation after their Alsatian, Bosco, savaged a Middlesbrough man. With 9 similar cases pending against the dog, or more accurately his employers it seems Bosco is firmly in the dog house.

We can report however that unlike his human colleagues Bosco does occasionally get it right – amongst the 54 people he has bitten in the line of "duty" are his handler, a sergeant and 2 Police Constables.

Essex – A big hand must go out to pro cannabis campaigner Glynn Lowndes, whose 150 plants were stored at Billericay police station. The green

fingering Mr Lowndes clearly knows his stuff as mellow fumes quickly spread throughout the station, forcing its closure for two days! Lets hope the usually closed minds of Essex filth have been broadened by the experience.

Everybody knows a would be high flier who eventually lands with a jolt, and there was many a tear at Class War HQ at the death of Detective Inspector Jean Macer-Wright of the **Metropolitan Police**. Described as one of the force's "brightest rising stars" her star somewhat plummeted whilst mountaineering in the Scottish Highlands. In fact it plummeted 150 metres off the side of a cliff. Still following the Stephen Lawrence inquiry her colleagues at Greenwich police station should be used to cleaning up a mess.

One story we missed last year was the **Durham** officer who opened fire whilst guarding Tony Blair's constituency residence. Guarding Phony Tony must be a boring job, and anybody could make the mistake of opening fire on a shadowy figure in the bushes. Unfortunately this shadowy figure turned out not be an international terrorist buta pigeon. The officer concerned has presumably been banned from watching

Wacky Racers.

Winner of our brainless bobby award this issue has to be ex-PC David Schotness, formerly of **Sussex Police**. Dopey David likes nothing better than flagging down passing cop cars and asking them for lifts, whilst boring their passengers with tales of his days on the force. Whilst Sussex and City of London police officers were only to willing to put up with this nonsense, the Met were not. David's cry of "taxi" ended up with a spell in the cells and confiscation of his warrant card. He has replied by launching a claim against the Met for wrongful arrest, unlawful detention, assault and battery and abuse of police powers. Perhaps Mr Schotness should get a bus pass like everybody else!

Our Money - Let Us Decide.

In a recent letter in a political newspaper, a Communication Workers Union full-time official took the leadership of the union to task for donating half a million pounds of union funds to the Labour Party. She also questioned why tens of thousands of pounds of our money goes to Labour candidates at local level. There was no mention of this in the *Voice*, official publication of the C.W.U. What there was, was a call for donations to The Tolstoy Millenium Project which tries to fight poverty and disease among orphans and street children in Moldova. The project are renovating a former prison in which they hope to house these unfortunates. Communication Workers Union Humanitarian Aid (CWUHA) have involved themselves in this scheme. They require another £80,000 to complete the work on the prison and allow the children to move in. Schemes such as this can only ever hope to relieve poverty in the very short term as the real cause of poverty is the existence of capitalism. To do away with poverty, we must destroy capitalism. However, the half a million quid would have paid for the new home for these children with a few bob to spare. Now it will help perpetuate a Government which has proved itself no friend of the poor and needy here, or anywhere else. Surely in the interests of democracy the members should decide how our money is spent, and given the choice between Blair, Straw and Byers, the kids in Moldova would win hands down. But then, there are no knightshoods or seats in the House of Lords for helping the casualties of capitalism.

Doing The Business

Welcome to Class War's latest round-up giving our view from the direct action front line.

Anti-NF Mobilisation, Euston, 28th November 2000

Following a joint campaign by the media and Omagh Families Campaign, The Cock Tavern in Euston got some pretty poor publicity for allowing the Real IRA's political wing to meet upstairs. In an attempt to impress their loyalist mates the National Front called for a picket of The Cock, coincidentally (or not) on the night Reclaim the Streets were due to meet there.

Class War certainly holds no brief for the Real IRA, who appear to lack any mandate in Britain or Ireland for their activities. However we are not going to allow the NF top decide who does what in London's pubs and the best time to see off this shower is now, when they are weak, rather than allowing them to grow in the fertile soil of Blair's Britain.

Approximately 20 anti-fascists found a dozen strong group of Nazis shivering next to their Union Jacks just off Eversholt Street. Ignoring the Metropolitan and British Transport Police contingents, the NF group was engaged with gusto. Unable to run too far because they were backing into a line of police vans the Nazis got a brief introduction to the treatment they can expect to receive every time they attempt to parade in London. Unfortunately the police lines regained their composure and 7 anti-fascists were rounded up.

One interesting development was the small groups of football supporters drinking in the area prior to the NF mobilisation. Some left a pub promptly when anti-fascists arrived, yet did not bother joining the fash's picket.

Picket of Paul Boateng's Surgery In Support of Mark Barnsley, 20th January 2001

Fucking freezing, arrive 0930 greeted by shit loads of fully equipped cops with crash barriers. Boateng refuses to enter building without police protection – what does he think we are going to do – take him hostage?

A dozen people eventually do nothing more frightening than hand out leaflets before Boateng finally agrees to meet one of his constituents! He promptly gives him

earache about Mark's treatment and asks him why the CPS are still withholding evidence. This picket seemed to really embarrass Boateng – more will have to be organised – get in touch to get involved.

Confronting the Royals on the streets of London

The London branch of the Movement Against the Monarchy decided to go and see Prince William on his official coming out parade after his 18th birthday. This was at the Press Complaints Commissions extravagant 10th anniversary do at Sutton House - a really posh mansion like building by the Aldwych on the banks of the Thames.

Our band of merry men and women were hassled like fuck by the filth, numerous searches and they followed our people for hours some only lost the filth by jumping in and out of Tube's and by running through buildings.... All this to stop us protesting against the Royal vermin. The next days papers were full of gushing reports about how 'Prince William was the star of the show' - only because he's protected from his own subjects!

Horse and Hound Ball, March 1st


The posh Horse and Hound ball at the Royal Lancaster Hotel was £90 a ticket and a room for the night was £150. The Urban Alliance decided to mobilise some of its supporters and go down and let the posh hunt scum know what we think of them – the Labour Party's Baroness Malleiu and other toffs were spotted. There was the usual complement of police and plain clothes filth out looking for us and the usual searches took place.

Around 30 of us had a lot of fun shouting abuse at the toffs as they went in, "parasites", "scum", "throw the Squire on the Pyre", "You're burning your mistress" and so on.

This event was after they said that nothing was moving in the countryside to stop the spread of Foot and Mouth, yet it was alright for them to travel to this event? As usual the media didn't say anything about this.

The Urban Alliance are promising to confront the Countryside Alliance when they come to London next time as well. Check www.geocities.com/urbanalliance/

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There's Now't as Queer as Trots

“It is clear that socialist groups don't have any influence on this protest but they falsely claim all gains for themselves. Additionally they are worried about the continuous growth and popularity of Anarchism and its influence upon the anti-globalisation movement”

A Polish Anarchist in a letter to Class War following last year's S26 protest in Prague.

The politics of the British left has seen some profound changes in the last two decades. From the early 80's when Militant were in control of Liverpool city council, the Socialist Workers Party (S.W.P.) could mobilise thousands of students to rallies in London and there were a multitude of other Trotskyist groups all claiming to be inheritors of Trotsky's ideals. They have now reached the lowest point in their fortunes for a long time.

Whereas the major Trot groups once hated each other more than they hated the Tories, (Peoples Front of Judea, fucking splitters!), they are now so weak that along with a rag bag of other lefties (including the Communist Party of Great Britain) they have to huddle together in the newly formed 'Socialist Alliance'. Having failed to rouse the working class to join their 'revolutionary' organisations through Trotskyist dogma they will soon be entering the electoral lottery and ask them to vote for them in Parliamentary elections. How the vanguard have fallen!

Principles of the Gutter

And what about the principles of these 'revolutionaries'? After the Scottish section of Militant split off from the rest of the British party, becoming the 'Scottish Socialist Party' their new führer Tommy Sheridan, (the same Tommy Sheridan who once offered to 'name name's' to the cops after the poll tax riot), became a member of the Scottish Parliament. Not only has he joined the Scottish people's elected oppressors he also showed his true socialist principles when he got married in a Catholic church. Perhaps it was one of those paedophile priests who spliced the knot for him. At least he was happy to support a good Stalinist tradition of the Millies and took his honeymoon in Cuba.

As for the S.W.P it seems that getting into bed with what is left of the English Trot movement has not increased their paper sales and they are now having some seriously bad financial problems. It has recently come to our attention that one of their full time staff, the much loved Julie Waterson (who we all felt sorry for when battered by a copper at the Welling march, not!), has recently been made redundant with, apparently, much falling out amongst the comrades. What's more their need of cash means they are now, indirectly, supporting the hunt scum. In a recent copy of Private Eye the Countryside Alliance paid for a full page advert, money that Eye used to pay their printers who are, yes you've guessed it, the S.W.P! (East End offset who print Private Eye and Searchlight amongst others is owned by the S.W.P)

The Failure of Trotskyism

The recent demise of groups like Militant and the S.W.P. can be put down to the failure of Trotskyist politics. With the massive discontent against Thatcher in the 80's, Major in the 90's and now disillusion with Blairite politics as well as

widespread concern about the rape of the planet and oppression of workers around the world by multi-nationalists, these centralised parties have got nowhere. The inevitable slide into oblivion of our once hated enemy, (the Trots not Capitalism that is), is in profound contrast to the successes that anarchist politics has had during this time.

From a few meusli crunching wierdo's in the 1960's, anarchism can now mobilise enough forces world-wide to stop meetings of the I.M.F., force governments to change policies on road building, genetically modified crops and other environmental issues and generally be a pain in the arse to police forces around the world. As we all know the internet is a wonderful thing and anyone who has access can soon see that while the Trots are ghettoised in a few, mostly western European countries anarchism has spread its wings and covers all four corners of the globe.

Vampire Alert

The success of the anarchist movement in winning so many new converts to our ideas and actions has now led to one of the more bizarre twists in the politics of the S.W.P. Those of you with experience of Trot politics will be well used to these middle class warriors doing everything possible to either distance themselves from groups like Class War, or just ignore us, although many of their members often realised what a group of tossers they were and came over to our ideas anyway. In the last year, however, the S.W.P. have been trying its hardest to appear to be us.

In Manchester, recently, a number of posters were seen around the university. Whilst at first glance they looked like they were by the Manchester C.W. group, with the slogan of 'Fuck' something or other, and with the Nike flash 'just do it' in the graphics, on closer inspection they were by the University S.W.P. This poster that sported classic C.W. imagery had the slogan 'Fuck tuition fees occupy the University'. Yet more dull S.W.P. go nowhere student politics.

This comes on top the most recent major parasitic political campaign of the S.W.P. and their efforts to hijack the anarchist led campaigns against the world bank. Although the Trots were nowhere to be seen when any action took place at Seattle or Prague they are trying to get credit for the brave work of others. It is now obligatory for all of their members to wear badges claiming themselves to be 'anti-capitalists'. But their apparent new-found liking for dressing up in anarchist clothing isn't a road to Damascus conversion after the death of their, totally unlamented, leader Tony Cliff (boy did we laugh) that we anarchists have been right all along. No when you scratch the surface the same shitty oppressive Trotskyist dogma lies just below the surface.

Different Face, Same Shit!

In a recent article in the S.W.P. theoretical magazine (is that possible?) entitled 'Anarchy in the UK' we are treated to all the usual Trotskyist rejections of our ideas of self determination in favour of their line of the dictatorship of the proletariat. In plain language what the S.W.P. mean by the dictatorship of the proletariat is the dictatorship by a few of their, unelected and unaccountable, central committee members. Under this doctrine they will rule how we should all live our lives which, if they are any example, will be drinking cappuccino in wine bars in Kensington.

Whilst the S.W.P. treat us to a parody of what anarchism stands for, which is excellently rebutted in *Freedom*, they don't take a single step back from the idea of this dictatorship. According to the S.W.P., "Lenin's development of a Marxist theory of the party was so important... Such a party [the S.W.P. of course] will... be centralised, in the sense that once it has voted on a course of action then all its members will [like a flock of obedient sheep] follow that course, or once it has decided on a principle all its members will adhere to that principle."

Do we get a hint of 1984 'doublespeak' here? What they mean is that they decide what's best for us and if we don't like it, tough! Indeed the article itself explains why we anarchists reject this parody of a revolutionary organisation, it is "undemocratic, sowing the seeds of dictatorship and stifling the will of the individual." Nuff said.

But according to them our rejection of their politics is because of "the failure of anarchism to understand the centrality of the working class itself." This comes from a party whose central committee is so middle class they shit cucumber sandwiches and whose leading member, the journalist Paul Foot, had a father who was the governor of Jamaica! And they have the cheek to say we don't understand the centrality of the working class! Finally the S.W.P. dismiss us anarchists as a whole because "*whatever ideals and gut instincts individual anarchists may have, anarchism, both in word and deed, fails to provide a roadworthy vehicle for human liberation.*" Yeah like Trotsky and Lenin who murdered thousands of workers at Kronstadt have shown a better example.

The End is Nigh

Although the Trots can still pull out a good display of paper sellers on most demo's the lengths they now go to recruit enough canon fodder to raise money for their apparatchiks and their desperate attempts to mimic the rejuvenated anarchists movement shows that as a political force Trotskyism is on its way out. But we should be aware that before these parasites finally disappear we should be wary of the damage that they can, and often do, cause to the causes they leech off.

When they do finally give out their last dying gasp, however, no more will anyone be led into the blind alley of Marxist-Leninist politics and we can get on with the fight against the real enemy and not have to watch out for them trying to stab us in the back.

Foot In Mouth Disease - The Politics Of The Countryside Alliance

The best news of 2001 so far has been the cancellation of the March 18th "Liberty and Livelihood" march planned through central London by the Countryside Alliance. Up to 300,000 toffs and toadies, foxhunters and fawners, bumpkins and barristers, idiots and inbreeds were expected to congregate at Embankment. As their Land Rover Discovery's would have had difficulty getting through the traffic, many were expected to walk past Parliament, Downing Street, Trafalgar Square and then to stop off at the Ritz for a quick sherry. Those who could not get their servants to walk the rest of the way for them would then be left to stagger into Hyde Park, where the march was due to finish.

A figure of 300,000 may well be an under estimate. Two special Eurostars were booked to take exiled English nobs from Paris to London, 7 planes from Inverness to London Luton airport, and most of the top hotels in London were booked up for the weekend. Add to that the "countrymen" who would stay at their London address that weekend, and the hundreds of coaches and trains booked, some estimates move up towards 450,000.

Class War has covered the rise of the Countryside Alliance ever since 1997, and we have been involved in opposing their activities around the country. That they attempt to disguise their demands to murder animals for fun as some sorts of civil rights issue is a sign of their weakness not their strength. Quite simply they have already lost all the other arguments.

We are not aware of ONE civil rights issue in the whole of the twentieth century that was supported by the groups that make up the Countryside Alliance. Not one campaign for workers rights was supported. One of their few campaign issues apart from promoting foxhunting is about restricting not increasing freedom – they have lobbied hard against the right to roam.

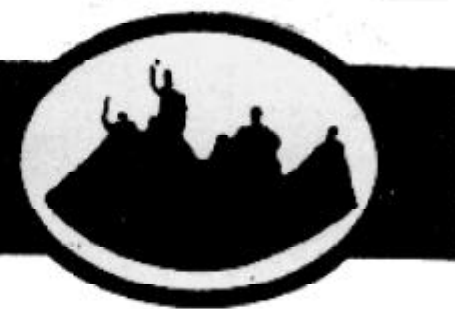
That new Labour waver rather than stand up to these characters proves everything we have said about the Labour Party over the years. Labour are open to pressure and will buckle – providing that pressure is applied from the right, not the left, from above not from below.

Class War members have been instrumental in setting up a group that is the exact opposite of the Countryside Alliance. Look out for the thousands of Urban Alliance stickers going up and contact the Urban Alliance on 07946 687192 to oppose the Countryside March when it happens. In the meantime get out there sabbing their hunts, slashing the tyres on their Range Rovers and encouraging your friends to hit these bastards hard.



CLASS WAR PRISONERS

PO BOX 467 LONDON E8 3QX



MARK BARNESLEY STILL FIGHTING INSIDE, STILL FIGHTING OUTSIDE

ONE LAW FOR THEM

Not many people charged with murder get bail. Millionaire Alun Phillips, charged with murdering his wife did. Even more bizarrely he paid £30,000 to security guards to stop himself from escaping, as a condition of his bail.

Phillips was eventually jailed for life, but we would not be surprised if he has done another deal with the judge, buying himself an island off Spain to serve his sentence on.

Staying on this subject, were we the only people to notice that many of the members of the Wonderland Club, an Internet paedophile ring, received sentences shorter than those jailed for public order offences at J18, N30 and MayDay? Was this because most of the Wonderland Club appeared to come from professional backgrounds, or to put it more simply very similar backgrounds to the person sentencing them?

Supporters of the campaign to free Mark Barnesley have stepped up their activities in recent months. Angered by the Home Office's inadequate response to requests from Mark and his supporters that Jack Straw intervene to force the Crown Prosecution Service in Sheffield to finally disclose evidence withheld at Mark's trial, a group of campaign activists occupied the CPS offices in Sheffield. 16 were arrested and charged with "conspiracy to burgle with intent".

In January, a demonstration was held outside the constituency surgery of Paul Boateng MP, who amused the campaign by telling them that "this government has done more for justice than any in living memory".

As a further indicator of just how bad Boateng's memory must be, he has still not replied to any of the questions put to him about non-disclosure of evidence, or Mark's continued victimization within the prison system.

Mark's campaign has recently attracted a number of high profile supporters – Mark Thomas, Paul Foot (!) and John McDonnell MP amongst others. The response to this from the prison system has been predictable. On 17 January 2001 Mark was placed in segregation at HMP Frankland for "fomenting dissent". Mark was subsequently told he was to be moved to another prison.

Having been told by the Home Office that they had to give some reason for seeking to move him, Frankland decided he had been "organizing a protest" although about what and on which days they have not thought to consider. There appear to be two reasons for this – firstly to disrupt lines of communication between Mark and his supporters, journalists etc and secondly to ensure that Mark does not stay

at any jail long enough to build friendships or have any influence.

The Prison Service and the Home Office appear to have decided that Mark's "reward" for fighting to prove his innocence will be a return to ghosting and segregation that characterized the earlier years of his 12 year sentence.

At the end of January Mark was transferred to HMP Wakefield – a clear punishment move, as Wakefield is primarily a jail for sex offenders. In consequence Mark refused to go on the wing and was kept in segregated conditions in an unheated cell with only one blanket. At the time of writing he is on one of the wings at Wakefield, in a cell previously condemned as unfit by the Prison Service.

In response to this, the campaign picketed the Prison Service Head Quarters and the Home Office in London, and supporters in Yorkshire had a well attended and somewhat loud demonstration outside the jail (congratulations on the fireworks!)

We would ask as many people as possible to spare 10 minutes to write to the Home Office and the Prison Service calling for Mark to be moved from Wakefield to a non-dispersal jail such as HMP Garth, to see out his sentence.

Wakefield seems to be allowing Mark only limited access to mail, on a strict interpretation of prison rules. They do however have to tell Mark what mail he has received – all letters to Mark should be sent recorded delivery to avoid mail being "lost" by the jail. Letters should always include a SAE. If you believe Mark has not received your letter, take it up with the Royal Mail in the first instance.

It is not simply the fact of Mark's innocence that should provoke people to support the campaign. Ten years on from the release of the Birmingham

6, the state's only response has been to make conviction easier and appeal harder. By reducing the prosecution's duty to disclose, ditching the right to silence and if Straw gets his way the ending of a right to elect for jury trial in either-way cases, the goalposts have been moved significantly. Coupled with the creation and under-funding of the Criminal Cases Review Commission – as a means of allowing the Home Secretary to duck political responsibility for the continued imprisonment of the innocent – the state's response is not to ensure that miscarriages of justice do not occur, but to ensure that any miscarriages of justice are ever harder to expose.

With the new Criminal Justice and Police Bill, and plans to force disclosure of previous convictions at commencement of trial, its clear that New Labour is determined that its second term will keep prison numbers at record figures.

Mark Barnesley's case shows that "justice" is not available to working class people in the courts. Fast track criminalisation of working class youth will simply fill the prisons with people fitted up as Mark was. In bidding to free Mark Barnesley we take the first steps in opposing the criminalisation of all of us.

Letters of support to **Mark Barnesley, WA 2897, HMP Wakefield, 5 Love Lane, Wakefield WF2 9AG.** (please enclose a SAE to ensure reply)

JUSTICE FOR MARK BARNESLEY CAMPAIGN
PO BOX 381 HUDDERSFIELD HD1 3XX

e-mail: barnsleycampaign@hotmail.com
www.freemarkbarnsley.com

Beware of Byers

The Government has recently announced plans to review how workforces are consulted regarding redundancies. It would be a mistake to imagine any sudden conversion to compassionate treatment of workers by the Blair administration. The real reason is a draft European directive establishing a "general framework" for informing and consulting employees in the European Union.

Stephen Byers, the secretary of state for trade and industry has reiterated the government's opposition to European legislation on this subject. Byers has presided over the decimation of the British motor industry in much the same way as the Conservatives did for the mining industry.

Businessmen fear the European legislation could lead to works councils. Britain, Germany, Denmark and Ireland have formed a blocking minority although the German government look as though they may pull out after a

statement from Chancellor Schroder which said "Germany has no difficulties with the consultation directive".

It is thought the directive could come into force by 2004 unless the Labour government can come up with sufficient delaying tactics to put the measure off.

Works councils are no more than a concessionary piece of window dressing from the E.U. and anyone who imagines real gains could be made from such bodies is surely naive.

The real issue is the way Labour has flung aside even the remotest pretence of looking after the class whose

interests it was formed to advance. Blair has courted big business since his election as leader in 1994. One of his first actions was to drop employment rights for workers from day one of their employment, a measure which was backed by his predecessor John Smith, hardly a revolutionary himself! Both Blair

and Byers have made references to business men as "wealth creators". The fact is, any wealth created in society is made by the working class and the only role bosses play is mis-managing affairs to such an extent that there needs to be redundancies in the first place.

Instead of works councils, we really need *Workers Councils* and a system which gears manufacture to the needs of society which is run by and on behalf the working class. Needless to say, Byers won't be calling for these, preferring 'social partnership' between bosses and T.U.C. unions. He is desperate for this idea to work as his career is on the line and he needs the T.U.C. to shore up his tarnished image. Let's hope the whole thing falls flat and we can say bye bye Byers.



DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?



October 20, 2000

Mr. Jack Straw
Class War Prisoners
P.O. Box 467
London, E8-3QX

Dear Mr. Straw,

Please be advised that my office has received your correspondence concerning Tennessee Department of Correction inmate John Schang # 149637. According to our records, we have no

Class War has some dedicated readers in that most awful of environments, the American top security prison system. When one reader, John Schang was recently refused his paper, we went straight to the top. Oddly the American authorities do not seem to have recognised the author of our letter of complaint.

SWEET ON SCABS, TOUGH ON UNION MINERS

Following his landslide victory in 1997, Tony Blair addressed the TUC conference. In a speech to the delegates but really directed to his friends in the city, Blair offered "no favours" to the unions or their members.

Funny then that when Blair is given the choice between the scab anti-union UDM, and the NUM Blair's message of "no favours" is replaced by one of throwing money and influence into the laps of the UDM.

First there is the test centres to which all miners and ex-miners must go to have their lungs tested for chronic bronchitis claims. In Nottingham and Leicester he locates them in UDM owned and operated buildings, whilst refusing to allow the NUM to use its buildings in either scab coalfields or NUM heartlands.

Next they grant a claims handling agreement to the UDM which allows the scab outfit to claim back millions from claims and copperbottom an extensive raiding sortie across British coalfields looking for claimants and taking out local radio adverts.

Needless to say the same facilities are denied the NUM, despite having requested them first. Consequently the UDM, which was dying a death,

is now prosperous whilst the NUM has lost valuable funding and influence.

Whilst in opposition, former Labour leaders promised, after intense lobbying from miners sacked, jailed and victimised during the strike, that the "first thing" they would do on gaining office would be to set the record straight and reinstate the men sacked in the strike. Where this was not possible compensation, and at the very least lost pension rights could be restored.

Typically, just as he did with banning hunting, Blair substituted a commitment with a fudge - a Commission of Enquiry. This enquiry was not to look at the injustice of the recent history of the coalfields and the price communities paid, including people who paid with their lives. Instead it was to see if any 'fresh evidence' had emerged in individual cases. Bad that all of this is, they have now actually canvassed the opinions of guess who? The UDM! To ask them if miners should be reinstated or have their cases looked at again! The very same UDM that directly and indirectly caused them in strike to be lost, thousands to lose their jobs and men to be sacked, beaten and jailed.

Can Blair go any lower? As he starts his election tour around the country lets ram the above facts down his smug throat!



THIS IS CLASS WAR

The Class War Federation is an organisation of groups and individuals who have come together to change the Society we live in, to improve the lot of working class people.

This Society is divided into classes based on control of its institutions and wealth. The Ruling Class - those who "own" the factories or natural resources - whether it's through shares or being chairman of the board etc., who are under normal circumstances supported by the Middle Class - those who gain their position in society by patronage of the Ruling Class - who carry out their dirty work of controlling and (dis)organising the working class who do all the necessary work. Such a society is the root cause of most of the problems experienced by Working Class people the World over. as the Ruling Class has every intention of keeping its privileged position it must be destroyed - this is Class War.

Real change can only come about by working class people organising themselves to deal with the problems that they experience and to provide for ourselves.

It is not about becoming better treated slaves but masters of our destiny. Direct action is necessary against the individuals and institutions who stand in the way of this. There is no alternative. Violence is a necessary part of the Class War - not

as elitist terrorists but as an integrated part of the Class - they started it, we'll have to finish it!

Class society creates other abuses based upon the prejudices of Ruling or Middle Class such as gender, ethnic origin, sexuality, disability. The Ruling Class often use these to divide our class. We must unite on the basis of we have in common our Working Class backgrounds and needs.

The Class must fight these divisions, on all fronts. Above all the CWF believes that politics cannot be separated from life - and life from politics. We reject the missionary/ righteous so called "revolutionary" Left. Our politics must be fulfilling and relevant to our every day lives.

Working Class people must take responsibility for their progressive revolutionary politics - fly by night middle class radicals have been the bane of our movement for as long as the Working Class has existed.

OUR AIM

Therefore the aim of the CWF is to increase the militancy and self awareness of the Working Class in defending their interests and solving their problems. We do this through propaganda, active participation and debate as equals.

Join Class War!

Class War membership costs £12 per calendar year (£6 unwaged) and is open to anybody who agrees with our politics and has been in touch with local Class War group for 3 months. Drop us a line to get involved!

JUSTICE FOR HARRY STANLEY

On 22 September 1999 a middle-aged Scottish man, Harry Stanley, was shot dead by the police in east London, a short distance from his home. He was unarmed, and his shooting caused considerable anger locally. Class War spoke to a friend of Harry's who has been involved in the campaign to obtain justice for both Harry and the Stanley family.

Class War: Can you tell us the circumstances of how Harry Stanley died?

Justice for Harry Stanley: Harry, not long out of hospital after having a tumour removed was returning from his brother's house with the now famous table leg. He stopped for a drink in the Alexandra pub. When he left somebody phoned the police to say an Irish man had left the pub with a sawn off shot gun. Harry is then challenged by the cops and shot once in the hand and once in the head.

Although this took place less than 100 yards from his home it took 18 hours for the police to inform his family, even though he had clear identification on him. A postmortem was carried out without the consent of the family which is illegal.

CW: What have your relations been like with the Metropolitan Police since the shooting? Have they offered an apology and compensation?

JFHS: Our relations have been hostile. No apology or compensation has been offered, whilst the officers concerned remain unnamed and on the beat.

CW: At one stage letters strongly criticising the campaign started appearing in the local media. What was all that about?

JFHS: A bloke called Yasmin Fyas had been slagging off the campaign in the Hackney Gazette letters page. No one

called Yasmin Fyas lives at the address given – the campaign believes the police were using this as an alias to slag us off.

CW: Has there been a lot of support from local people?

JFHS: Yes all the demonstrations we have organised have been well attended and with 'real people' from Hackney, not just the usual leftie types.

CW: What are your objectives? What can be achieved in that for any conviction to occur the police will not only have to investigate but charge and then get a conviction of fellow officers?

JFHS: We have three main demands: A fully independent public enquiry. The police officers responsible sacked and charged with murder. Armed Response Units taken over the streets of Britain. If the campaign is strong enough it is possible to get charges laid – other campaigns like the Jim Ashley campaign show this.

CW: Twenty years ago if something like this had happened there would have been

a riot. Do you think the working class has now accepted police violence to a certain extent?

JFHS: The police had phoned Diane Abbot MP before they even told the family. That shows they were scared of the community response. People think everybody kicked off all the time in the 1980s but that was not always the case.

CW: Given that this is one case amongst many historically – is it worth putting pressure on people with power because they have never shown any indication of changing for the better? Don't you think an eye for an eye is a principle response?

JFHS: We need to fight for justice and to expose the system like the Stephen Lawrence case did. Revenge would not work – if they lose one cop they just replace them with another.

CW: Are there any similarities between the police's role in say industrial disputes and their wider role in working class areas of the big cities?

JFHS: Yes there is. If you look at the way drugs raids are used to put on a

show of the police's force in working class areas. They could easily go off to rich areas and arrest people with cocaine, instead of teenagers with a bit of dope.

CW: If what the police are about is discipline and oppression surely we should be opposing their very existence?

JFHS: Yeah, but not everybody in the campaign would agree – especially the Vicar from Bethnal Green!

CW: What support have you had from the families of other people killed or framed by the police?

JFHS: Loads! I can list the names Paddy Hill, Delroy Lindo the Sylvester family, Christopher Alder the list could go on and on.

CW: What advice would you give to other families who go through this type of terrible trauma?

JFHS: The best way to get over it is to fight and organise. Link with other campaigns but make sure you involve the unions to get money!

CW: Nearly two years down the line – where does the campaign go next?

JFHS: Legally a Judicial Review of the Crown Prosecution Service's decision not to prosecute the officers concerned. Harry's family are going on a national speaking tour with other families campaigning for justice. This will lead up to a huge demonstration in October/November time. We don't want to give too many details away right now but it will be lively!

Now is very much the time for people to give this campaign the support it deserves. Contact JUSTICE FOR HARRY STANLEY PO BOX 29644, LONDON E2 8TS. TELEPHONE 0788 4096222.



Our Homes Are Not For Sale!

The term "Stock Transfer" should (and hopefully does) send a shiver down the spine of every working class person.

The continuation of the Tory policy of the privatisation of council housing by new Labour is both sickening and frightening. Thankfully it seems to have motivated tenants, trades unionists and class conscious groups into a growing campaign of opposition. Quite simply we do not want our homes sold off to housing associations and profiteering yuppies who will bring us higher rents, poorer building maintenance, insecurity of tenancy and a total disregard for the interests of tenants.

On 24th January a rally and lobby of Parliament was held against the sell-offs. The fight against this new wave of privatisation is a gaining strength and seems to be a broad church. Local groups are being set up around the UK and we urge all Class War readers to get involved and argue against profit, capitalism and authority. These homes were built for and by US – not to be bought by speculators. Social housing, whatever its often considerable faults, was one of the few real pro-working class social policies of the post-war era. We should not give it up easily.

Gr a f f i t i Competition

Congratulations to the man with no name from Berlin for this superb piece of work spotted last year. Send your handiwork to the London address - £10 for the winner!



this issues win-

"If you define socialism as equality of opportunities so that all people in our country have the best chance to realise their potential, that's what I want to do"

Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown in the Daily Mirror on 9th March. Class War's definition (and indeed any dictionary on sale in your local bookshop) tends to include concepts such as community control of production and distribution, equality and the absence of the profit system. Still its nice to see Gordon is maintaining his party's long tradition of knowing nothing about socialism!



Mr Moneybags

".... the Queen and other members of the Royal Family had been concerned at the Princess's lack of appetite over the Christmas period. She ate a jam tart and it caused great excitement"

Lady Glenconner commenting on the illness of the Queen's sister, Princess Margaret. Class War has two pieces of advice for Margaret - eat your dinner your silly cow, and when you run a bath it is normal to put in cold water as well as hot.

Sod-Action

Sod-Action are a cleverly named group formed in Bristol to campaign against the company Sodexho. Based in the USA, Sodexho are one of the world's largest private prison builders, and are getting their toe in the door over here.

In the UK they use the name UK Detention Services Ltd, running prisons and the Voucher Scheme for Asylum Seekers. In Belgium they have recently been given the contract to administer a voucher scheme for the unemployed and to top it all off they do catering and clothing work for the filth as well.

The animal rights movement has shown us that activists willing to expose and then campaign against particular companies can have spectacular success. Could a united diverse campaign against Sodexho score similar goals?

Contact Sod-Action at-
Box 95, 82 Colston Street,
Bristol BS1 5BB

Or e-mail them at
sod-action@fsmail.net

TOP TEN ECO - TOFFS

Class War presents our guide to who's who at the top of the green movement. This is not to say we don't think recycling is a good idea and so on. But we must be aware of the class motivation of green policy and the effect it will have on the working class. Abstract and utopian green ideas implemented in a top down fashion will only have a destructive impact on the working class, as it is us who will pay for it economically, socially and environmentally!

Secondly the one thing none of these bastards seem keen to do is recycle their money!

1. The chief royal parasite himself - Prince Charles. When not having an in depth and challenging conversation with his plants, he gets his gardeners to do his organic gardening for him - at our expense. Also shows a passing interest in free-range animals, before he blows them out of the skies or hounds them to death on horseback.

2. Zac Goldsmith. Following in his bigoted dad's footsteps he seems destined to Lord it over us in a new age fashion at the Ecologist magazine.

3. Lord Melchett, no not of Blackadder fame - the Lord is one of the golden boys of Greenpeace who do anything to get on telly.

4. Zac's uncle Teddy Goldsmith, who founded the Ecologist magazine and played an ideological role in the foundation of the Green party.

5. The Duke of Wellington. The old Etonians 400 acres at Stratfield Saye House in Berkshire - or "Royal Berks" as they call it - has organic farming and public access. The Prince of Wales estates are far less accessible to the public - fancy that....

6. Marchioness of Worcester. The future Duchess of Beaufort is a trustee of Friends of the Earth, and associate director of the International Society for Ecology and Culture. Look out for her at the snobby Duke of Beaufort's hunt.

7. Tessa Tennant. Director of the investment trust, Global Care Investments - part of National Provident. Tessa what we find so horrible about you is your wallet!

8. The Hon Miriam Rothschild. An ecologist, and a world authority on fleas! Given the company she keeps she must be permeantly surrounded by parasites.

9. The Hon Sir Jonathon Porritt. Yet another old Etonian, Porritt has been influential in the Green Party and Friends of the Earth, and is now Director of the

think tank "Forum for the Future". The thinking persons Eco-Toff. Bosom buddies with old big ears Charles, we fear he will be lording it over us for years to come.

10. Baroness Young of Scone. A Blairite life peer who is chair of English Nature and a deputy chair of the BBC, this is one scone guaranteed to put you off your elevenses!



BEHIND THE NEWS

Have you ever noticed the way certain international media stories dominate the British media for a set time, and then vanish from view? The best example is South Africa that post-apartheid is of no interest to the British media at all, even though poverty and suffering continue under the ANC as it did under the apartheid regime.

Another example is East Timor, no longer a liberal favourite since its vote for independence from Indonesia, the country struggles to get a mention even in the so-called serious papers. We are therefore happy to quote from an Australian activist who wrote to Class War after spending some time in the country. "The UN and multi-national military and capitalist forces are currently in charge. Working class East Timorese are getting fucked over once again and they know it. Its just a new phase of exploitation and oppression. I talked to hundreds of people around the capital, Dili. More and more people are getting pissed off with the foreigners who are supposed to be there to help the people and rebuild the country, but are seen cruising around in flash cars with their mobile phones and computers, cut off from the reality of the streets."

People in East Timor have a long record of fighting against imperialist aggression having locked horns with the Portugese, Japanese and Indonesians over the centuries. Let's hope they turn on the UN officers, supposedly there to protect them.

Keeping His Distance

In September 1998 a former resident of Hackney returned to the east London borough to talk about the perils of Social Exclusion. He should know. The former resident was Prime Minister Tony Blair who lived on Mapledene Road for 6 years in the 1980s, and wisely turned down the opportunity to become a Labour Councillor in the borough. He has gone a long way in 20 years.

Blair's visit was to praise the re-development of the Holly Street estate. He went on state "What an incredible transformation. This is the type of initiative we need to see replicated across the country"

As Hackney's self-induced financial crisis has taken hold one of the council's first suggested cutbacks was on the Holly Street Estate. One block is reserved for pensioners only, and comes with a concierge. The Labour-Tory coalition's suggestion was to cut the concierge to reduce the council's deficit. No mention of course of cutting their own salaries or expenses, and certainly no suggestion that Tony Blair himself, so keen to promote the area 18 months earlier, should return for this part of the incredible transformation!

Hackney council has a strategy. Despite 3 brilliant strikes by its workforce, it wishes to

push ahead with plans to cut the salaries and terms and conditions of its workers. A streamline, fitter Hackney is more acceptable to big business. By putting up rents and council tax, whilst reducing council services they intend to not only reduce their debts (which, despite talk of bankruptcy are arguable no worse than some other inner-city council's) but to tighten the vice on the poorest people in the borough. Council leader Max Caller and the Lab-Tory leadership of Jules Pipe and Eric Ollerenshaw appear so confident of their positions that they have simultaneously taken on a large section of their workforce, and a significant section of the local population. The last time they tried to do that was during the Poll Tax and we all know how that ended up.



Two excellent methods of fighting the council have been proposed which we endorse totally. One is a sort of selective rent strike where residents simply pay their rent at the 2000-01 rate, rather than the increased rate. If tens of thousands of residents do this, the council's already low expectations of rent collection will fall even further.

Like all workplaces Hackney Council relies on the goodwill of its staff. Each general election hundreds of staff volunteer to work

as tellers assistants at schools and libraries serving as polling stations. These premises need to be opened in the morning, and they normally are by a union member. They have to be staffed throughout the day. If workers simply decline to volunteer on polling day most of the polling stations will be closed. Not their problem. No legal action can be taken against them, or their unions as they are simply declining to volunteer.

It will however be the problem of council leader Max Caller, who is the returning officer for the election, something that involves onerous legal responsibilities. As it is the council and the councillors that are the problem, what better response could there be than to ensure on council election day May 3rd, they get a timely kick up the arse. To disrupt the parliamentary elections by this tactic would be an act of national significance.

"Cor life is very busy for you Urban Alliance people innit ay. Why don't you get out there and start killing some foxes I killed a few this morning and by the way stop putting stickers on my car." Yet more rigorous intellectual debate from the world of killing animals for fun.

"Get out of bed you lazy fuckers. While you're lying there wanking, I'm out there killing foxes." Telephone message left on the Urban Alliance phone on the 5th March 2001. Nice to see that at the time the 'country sports' fraternity were obeying the call to stay out of fields due to the foot and mouth outbreak.

FIRING FROM THE HIP

As a rule American politicians are even worse set than British one's, but then again not many people have heard of Tom Alciere, the former Republican (!) representative on the New Hampshire legislature. In January Alciere resigned after a newspaper discovered he had placed hundreds of anti-police statements on Internet discussion sites.

We are happy to reproduce his views in full:

"There is nothing wrong with slaughtering a cop. Just throw the carcass into the dumpster with the rest of the garbage. Cops are nothing but vicious, brutal thugs anyway"

"Nobody will ever be safe until the last cop is dead"

"It's unfortunate that cops do make it necessary (to kill them) when they're waging a war on drugs, and I view cops as enemy officers"

Mr Alciere, who inspects circuit boards at a factory for a living, denied he had misled voters saying no one had asked him about his views on the police. His proposed bills, which are now unlikely to go forward, included the legalisation of drugs, reducing the minimum drinking age and the replacement of schools with online learning. You are wasting your time in the Republican Party Mr Alciere, from what we have heard you should join Class War at once!

COAL WAS OUR LIFE COAL IS OUR LIFE

by Royce Turner (£12.99, Sheffield University Press)

In the 1950s a book regarded as a classic, *Coal Is Our Life* studied a pit town in West Yorkshire – the people, their aspirations, their lives. Royce Turner has returned to the same locations and found a devastating contrast.

Turner is polemical, even confrontational. The book erupts from the suffocating swamp of PR sociology which has buried the decimated pit villages since the mass closures of 1992-3. The book challenges the self-congratulatory business schemes, job creation schemes, retraining schemes, regeneration and reinvestment schemes who constantly tell us they are at work, which everywhere publish reports and surveys (they seem to be the biggest growth area themselves) yet still poverty, deprivation and loss remain. How can so many organizations, awash with European and lottery money be running so fast and yet standing still?

On housing in Featherstone in 1996: *"The families that lived in them were beset by social and economic problems. On top of that the residents were struggling to survive in the face of a poor local reputation. It is almost as if the houses are a physical representation of hopes dashed of a vision for the future turned sour. People had secure employment, brand new modern houses, what were seen as good prospects for their kids. Now forty odd years later, the houses are crumbling, and the lives have crumbled too. Old battered cars sit on oil-soaked drives. If it is sunny people sit on the door step for half a day. There's nothing much else to do."*

The book points to areas none of the incoming social missionaries can comprehend – as they never understood what we had in pit communities in the first place, how the hell can they understand what we have lost?

It is more than the sum of many parts – roots, pride, class identity, community,

culture, politics, vision that you choose to lump together. Certainly grim toil, death, injury, disease, conservatism are also words and concepts which battle with the former descriptions of pit life – no one here is looking for that. Instead we have poverty strewn, heroin addicted, crime-ridden villages.

"The pop factory represented the only foreign investment in Featherstone. Yet foreign investment we were told throughout the 1980s – as deindustrialisation savaged large parts of the economy – was going to be the salvation of local economies. Looking at a small town like this gets you away from the platitudes and generalizations of national politicians who would not even know where Featherstone was except when it was needed to provide a rock solid Labour seat for some anointed rising star

Yet these were the two themes of the 1980s and much of the 1990s. A newly rejuvenated small business sector, and inward investment by multi-nationals were going to transform the economy. Neither has happened in Featherstone, and neither will"

The author gets sucked down too deep by the depression and despair he sees all around him. Yet class anger remains 13 years after the defeat of the miners strike, when Ian MacGregor died, someone felt enough to go onto the site of a former Barnsley colliery and paint a tribute on the walls!

Attend the annual Durham Miners Gala seven years after the last Durham Colliery closed and see the pride and class anger as the banners retake the streets carrying their old message of class struggle and socialism. 50,000 turned out in July 2000. At the time of writing the NUM is balloting again for strike action. Class politics still strike a chord in pit communities, but it would be a downright lie to suggest most eyes had their vision fixed in that direction.

The antisocial spread of emptiness consumes everything around it and one needs real determination not to succumb to it. We need a national fight back linking these isolated pit villages to struggles and issues nationwide, we need a return of vision and hope.

This is a book that needs to be read – lying down and dying has never been our way of dealing with hardship.



"The Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union calculates that Vauxhall has made about £100,000 profit per employee over the past decade"

The Guardian 20th January 2001 discussing the proposed closure of the Vauxhall plant in Luton. How much has your boss made out of you in the past decade?

P.A.I.N "OUR UNIVERSE STOPS HERE"

(CD, available from all good record shops)

This is the long awaited second full-length release from Propaganda and Information Network. Styling themselves as south London's finest exponents of nuclear dub, genetically modified ska and BSE laced punk rock, P.A.I.N should need no introduction to many Class War readers.

The album's theme is the prison system and its use against the defenceless, and laws that cannot be defended. In our universe they don't exist

For more information on P.A.I.N. check the Iron Man website <http://www.music.mercia.org/ironman/pain/en>

NOTES FROM THE BORDERLAND

Magazine, Issue 3, £3 from Class War or from Larry O'Hara, BM Box 4769 London WC1N 3XX

Notes from the Borderland goes from strength to strength. This issue contains the first detailed, serious analysis of the 1999 nailbomb campaign in London, as opposed to the police/Searchlight sponsored analysis provided elsewhere. Given one of the survivors of the Soho bomb is taking legal action over the police's failure to prevent the bomb, this promises to be the first chapter in a story of national significance.

Londoners will find the analysis of the Lawrence enquiry by Russell Miller equally ground breaking. An enquiry seized upon by the liberal left as earth-shattering and some sort of defining moment in history, looks very different under a critical light. The liberal MacPherson basically delivered us no justice for the Lawrence family, no police officers prosecuted or sacked, publication both on the Internet and in the initial report of witnesses home addresses and ultimately the likely removal of the law of double jeopardy.

The constant themes of O'Hara's work are the use of the media by the police and security services for their own propaganda purposes, and analysis of the breakdown in relationships between different sections of the state. Given the lazy way some Anarchists tend to view the state as a monolithic block, rather than as a vehicle for overlapping and sometimes competing sections of the ruling class, we hope Notes from the Borderland goes from strength to strength.

Simon Jones Campaign

On 6th March Richard Martell of Chichester appeared in court charged with the manslaughter of Simon Jones at Shoreham Docks. Simon was killed on his first day at work. Martell's company, Euromin, face a separate charge of corporate manslaughter.

That this case has reached the courts is a testimony to the superb work done by Simon's friends and family over the past three years. Well done!



POLITICAL PRISONERS IN FRANCE

In February this year two anti-fascist activists from the city of Marseille in the south of France, Yves Peirat and William Ferrari, were convicted of a number of militant anti fascist actions. Between 1991 and 1998 as the Franc Tireur Partisans (FTP Partisan Sharpshooters) Peirat and Ferrari were alleged to have set fire to and bombed offices of the French fascist party the Front National (FN) as well as buildings where they met.

Although they did not injure anybody, on the sixth anniversary of the day that a group of FN fly posters murdered a young north African, Ibrahim Ali, the court of Marseille condemned Yves Peirat to a staggering 5 years in prison and William Ferrari to 18 months suspended sentence. The two were also condemned to pay the fascist councils they attacked 750,000 francs (approx £75,000) in damages.

These actions were carried out to combat the rise of the extreme right in the south of France represented not only by the murder of Ibrahim Ali, but by oppressive racist regimes taking control in a number of southern French towns and cities: these included Orange, Toulon and Vitrolles which is like the British National Party holding a majority of council seats in Liverpool, Blackpool and Chester.

The radicalisation of the methods used by the FTP was a way to show the fash that their opposition would not give in to their intimidation and also that alternatives to state led opposition to fascism exists. The actions of the FTP gained a large degree of popular support.

Class War fully supports the action and principles that these two anti fascist activists showed. The punitive sentence that Peirat received from the French state is clearly meant to be a lesson to other anti-fascist activists. To help fight for the freedom of Peirat and removal of the fines support groups have been started up by French anti-fascist groups.

If you want to help Yves and William, a benefit t-shirt is available for 65 French francs (about £6.50 but if you send them a tenner it would cover postage and give a donation) from: **Solidarite Resistance Anti-Fasciste, 21 ter Rue Voltaire, 75011, Paris, France.**

Information is also available from the committee for the liberation of Yves Peirat and William Ferrari at:

Comité, Theatre Toursky, Passage Leo FERRE, 13003, Marseille.

SOLIDARITY NEEDED IN POLAND

No we don't mean Lech Welesa and his Roman Catholic Church front group! Solidarity is needed in Poland and throughout Europe with Tomasz Wilkoszewski who is serving 15 years for the murder of a Polish nazi. Tomasz was jailed for 15 years after Polish activists fought back against the rising tide of nazism, particularly in youth culture in Poland. His appeal was recently refused so this campaign needs to be kick started to shame the authorities. He has already served 4 years.

Donations and messages of support should go to:

Warhead, PO Box 129, 15-662, Bialystok 26, Poland.
ABC Poland, PO Box 5, 60-966 Poznan 31 Poland.

Also e-mail rozbrat@fiko2.onet.pl

NO GOOD, NO USE, NO CLASS

“No Logo” by Naomi Klein (£14.99, Flamingo)

This is a must read for the movement at the minute - not because it's any good but because of the hype surrounding it. It is meant to be the bible of the new anti capitalist, anti globalisation movement and ironically is published by Rupert Murdoch's stable. We wonder what the old Wapping printworkers would have to say about this?

In her introduction Klein in the journalist way waffles away in a meaningless manner, and occasionally puts forward her main ideas carefully hidden in the text. On page xvii she says we have a *“a world-wide style culture.... this post national vision... another kind of global village, where the economic divide is widening and cultural choices narrowing.”* On page xviii and xix she finally manages to say *“this book is hinged on a simple hypothesis: that as more people discover the brand-name secrets of the global logo web, their outrage will fuel the next big political movement, a vast wave of opposition squarely targeting transnational corporations, particularly those with very high name-brand recognition... simply put, anti-corporatism is the brand of politics capturing the imagination of the next generation of troublemakers and shit-disturbers.”*

To prove that this is true Klein would just have to describe the local cases throughout Western Europe where people are busily campaigning against Brand names. You'd imagine managers of the Gap, Sports shops, designer shops and McDonalds would have trouble getting to work in every town where there is a store. This is obviously nonsense.

On a national level in Britain there is no Anti Asda movement now they have been bought by Wal-Mart, a bete noire for Klein. One local example of this is the Northern city of Sunderland. This is a developing university town with a Gap, Asda, and most of all - a successful Football team with crowds of 47,000 sponsored by Nike who Klein spends a lot of time campaigning against. Sunderland FC has 3 shops selling its wares, and countless other sports shops throughout the North sell Sunderland Nike clothes. Nike has a 4 year contract with Sunderland FC, and on Klein's model this is a made to measure campaign for her 'new wave of troublemakers' to engage in.

However, on the ground in the real world what is there? Answer: NOTHING. There is no anti-Nike

campaign in or around Sunderland, nor any identifiable anti-Nike sentiment in even a small proportion of the population. What there is, is a vast working class army of people who have felt the force of class society for generations who elect monkeys in suits as Labour politicians time and time again.

There was the case of Newcastle United director (Shepperd) calling Newcastle's women supporters “dogs”, and calling supporters generally “mugs” for buying

Newcastle strips for £40 when they are made in the Third world for £4 but this has still not led to any long term campaigns. The people of the North East know this is exploitation but are engaged in the struggle for survival in the ways they know. One of them is buying vast quantities of goods in the Black market. Both Alcohol and tobacco smuggling are carried on in huge quantities, and also there is the retail of counterfeit clothing (Sunderland, Newcastle and Middlesborough tops) at substantially cheaper prices. Even Arsenal is sponsored by Nike yet there is no anti-Nike campaign within the fan base.

Klein's work (and it is boosting her media career) has all the flaws you'd expect from an expansionist North American Foreign policy (albeit a left wing one) She talks in great detail about American brand names and how production in the West has been replaced by production in the Third World and temps in the 1st world (Ch. 10). These descriptions and of the first world investment in so called “free trade zones” (Ch. 9), are the best parts of the book and we would refer people directly to them.

It is substantially weaker when talking about how the class struggle has changed as a result (and working class, or protest history as a whole), & doesn't talk about any Marxist, neo-Marxist or anarchist theorists or their models at all. This means that the description of a new anti Brand movement in America is then put forward as the model of anti-capitalist growth in the West as a whole and in particular Britain, which she mentions in the text often, devotes a specific chapter to, and she also takes inspiration from the McLibel case. This is absurd on the evidence presented by Klein and easily disproved. Funnily enough, it is only after the publication of her book that activists have taken to targetting the well-known brand names in Britain.

“a picture of corporate space as a fascist state where we all salute the logo and have little opportunity for criticism because our newspapers, television stations, Internet servers, streets and retail spaces are all controlled by multinational corporate interests.”

Also the evidence Klein presents is often too general and employed without sufficient grounding to be useful. Further like the academic trend to take the class politics out of situationism, Klein constantly avoids the notion of class and her fleeting discussions of working class politics are inane. As is her annoying habit of throwing things in whose relevance is not only contestable, but useless eg. the Chumbawamba quote on p. 77. We think Klein is *Neither new, illuminating nor*

beyond middle class indignation. That's how grateful we are.... Finally there are no ideas about the way forward for struggle throughout the world, nor should we expect any for as she says on page xviii it is a book based on “first hand observation”. She is a journalist who is merely mediating our movement and history in the bourgeois press, for the bourgeois press

In the last paragraph of the introduction (page xxi) Klein insists: *“the book is an attempt to analyse and document the forces opposing corporate rule, and to lay out the particular set of cultural and economic conditions that made the emergence of that opposition inevitable. Part 1, “No Space”, examines the surrender of culture and education to marketing. Part 11, “No Choice”, reports on how the promise of a*

“this book is hinged on a simple hypothesis: that as more people discover the brand-name secrets of the global logo web, their outrage will fuel the next big political movement, a vast wave of opposition squarely targeting transnational corporations, particularly those with very high name-brand recognition... simply put, anti-corporatism is the brand of politics capturing the imagination of the next generation of troublemakers and shit-disturbers.”

vastly increased array of cultural choice was betrayed by the forces of mergers, predatory franchising, synergy and corporate censorship. And Part 11, “No Jobs”, examines the labor [can't these Yanks spell?] market trends that are creating increasingly tenuous relationships to employment for many workers, including self employed, McJobs and outsourcing, as well as part-time and temp labor. It is the collision of and the interplay among these forces, the assault on the three social pillars of employment, civil liberties and civic space, that is giving rise to the anticorporate activism chronicled in the last section of the book. Part 1V, “No Logo”, an activism that is sowing the seeds of a genuine alternative to corporate rule.”

In reply we would say that the tendencies Klein writes about in Parts 1 and 2 were virtually identical to those written by 'another

spokesman of a generation' Herbert Marcuse in “One Dimensional Man”, and the lack of knowledge of this is shocking. Knowledge of this would have greatly improved the book. **Klein says** *“a picture of corporate space as a fascist state where we all salute the logo and have little opportunity for criticism because our newspapers, television stations, Internet servers, streets and retail spaces are all controlled by multinational corporate interests.”* The similarities between this and Marcuse are there for anybody who has read both;

Marcuse was the first to spot the irrationality of this society as a whole. “We submit to the peaceful production of the means of destruction”, and chapter headings like “The Closing of the Political Universe” and “The Closing of the Universe of Discourse” are themes stolen by Klein in her ignorance. Today this manifests **itself in the fact that** people are laid off in one country only to make more work for us all by re-importing the goods back into the areas where there is now unemployment after they have been made abroad.

Klein is at her weakest when talking about the political situation in Britain and her chapter on Reclaim the Streets is particularly poor. Of the Birmingham anti-capitalist action in May 1998 she states (happily knowing and freely admitting that “she wasn't there”) that *“instead of rocks and bottles, the weapon of choice was that increasingly popular piece of slapstick ammo: the custard pie.”*

This is total bullshit! We were there that day and not one custard pie was spotted. Instead there was a large number of up for it types and local

youths who were doing the normal “policing” of these events by keeping the cops at arms length, and away from the sound system and dancing hippy fools. We saw cops getting kicked and one was trapped as a cry of “piggy in the middle” went up, though he got out with only minor damage unfortunately.

The weapon of choice for those who were actually there, was anything to be found from the Bullring street market - tons of veg, boxes and so on were thrown as well as the usual bottles and bricks, with a camera crew getting attacked as well. Despite a media blackout at the time, several months later this event was billed in the Daily Mirror as a serious riot and photos were published of those who were wanted by the police. So much for the fluffy nonsense.

These events are only successful because of the way the law works in Britain - they could quite easily be smashed off the streets and what would the hippies do then? Go back to their fucking teepees never to be seen again cos they can't handle political realities.

In conclusion, No Logo is at its best on a descriptive level in the shift from product to brand, and the employment relations in “Free Trade Zones”. However it is weaker and actually wrong on a number of other fronts. Notably economics, attempts to impose what's happening in America onto Britain, history, political analysis and arguments to do with mobilizing issues. We were parodying the Nike swoosh logo nearly 10 years ago!. Klein is totally ignorant of this and several other things that matter. As per usual with academics, it's a case of too little too late.



BOOK REVIEWS

THE PROBLEM OF REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY AND SOCIAL DEMOCRACY - OR A REVIEW OF "REFLECTIONS ON MAYDAY"

published by Mayday 2000, P.O. Box 2474, London, N8 0HW.

While life is quite comfortable for most people in western society, and we have the trappings of the welfare state, and we all know that revolution isn't round the corner (except the SWP), it is going to be a hard struggle to articulate that not only can our lives be so much more than they are, but revolutionary change is a necessity if our lives, or at least our descendants' lives are not to be reduced to chaos, crisis and poverty.

While most organizations in the Lenninist tradition contribute in various economic struggles, they fail to push the autonomy of the working class and the liberty of individuals within the class.

Class War and the Anarcho-Communist movement have faced up to this and also to the need for constantly changing tactics as the state and ruling class, with their superior resources, learn to cope with the ways that we struggle. Class Wars' unique role as a newspaper was articulating the interconnection between youth disillusionment, industrial disputes, profiteering and corruption and other direct attacks to our class such as the Poll Tax. We showed how fighting back can be empowerment.

The problems we face will not go away, and this article was brought about by a critique of the contributions to "Reflections on Mayday". This pamphlet prints peoples 'reflections' on the mayday event last year and contains a broad range of ideas - reactionary (eg the useless articles by AB, Jem Bendell, Kirk, and others had no worth in them whatsoever - why we are even thinking about them is beyond us) and progressive (or a combination of the 2 - like the article reprinted from "Do Or Die" no. 8. - their article in "Do or Die" no. 9 about Mayday was far better) It reveals that the same issues occur time and time again, and also reveals the true class composition of what passes for the anarchist movement.

"Mayday 2000 A Festival of Anti Capitalist Ideas and Action" was exactly the same as other events, and even J18. It was a very partial mobilisation of the possible sources of fightback there are available. From being one of the leading sectors of working class revolution the miners ("miners" meaning wives, relatives and communities) in their northern heartlands are not even considered to be worth approaching. They (class enemies) say, and its incredible that people even within the anarchist movement listen to this nonsense, "that

the miners were defeated and that there's next to none left anyway". This was dealt with in issue 80 of Class War, which said that the miners were not exterminated, the struggle is going on now and today in these regions with people and communities who are very often highly class conscious. That we are currently divided is not the issue, just how we are best to go about composing the working class struggles is....

The article placed in the beginning of the pamphlet is obviously the one that the publishers think is the most important and it's a shame that so much faith is placed into the radical tourists calling themselves the "Bash Street Kids". No analysis, seemingly however radical, is worth a bean unless it is situated in the real movement of the working class and our class composition. The main mistake the Bash Street Kids make is that of confusing the anarchist movement or "our movement" as they call it with the revolutionary movement of the working class (for this is the only group capable of overturning the capitalist society). For Bash street Kids to extend their radical ideas outside this real movement of the working class shows their misunderstanding of the tasks facing us all.

Overall you have to have a lot of patience to wade through a lot of these irritating articles, that show there has been no development in our movements class composition and ideas for some time now.

The problem is that anarchists have elevated their ideal (an anarchist society) into a strategy that is thought to work (if only we could discover it) in this society. This chasing of the 'Holy Grail' is plainly nonsense, and in fact represents the worse substitutionist and depoliticised parts of anarchist impetuism. Anarchist activity must be able to work in an everyday manner where people live and work, and deal with the problems they face if we really want to participate in a mass movement (and not a Movement of the ghetto) For example, to get somebody whose been framed out of prison it will probably be best to work within the system (collect evidence, write to newspapers/MP's etc) and not storm the walls of the prison (a classical anarchist tactic that is only possible in times of crises) We must utilise all sorts of strategies to build and include people in our movement if we want to succeed in the long term. This 'social democratic' activity does not make you any less of an anarchist for we still agree on the final goal. Persuading the anarchists against their obsessions and hedonism is a hard task though.

At the beginning of the pamphlet, there are some good points, and some worthwhile debate that is worth continuing, but the deeper you dig, the more irritating and barking articles crop up with increasing regularity.

"THE WORLD IN 2001"

(magazine £4.75 or shoplift it. Published by The Economist Autumn 2000)

Rather than do the usual sad reviews that reflect a lack of ambition on the part of our movement [e.g. reviewing things produced by the anarchist/communist groups for the anarchist/communist movement] Class War always likes to set new trends and spread our horizons in the hope of influencing others.... part of this is this review encouraging others to branch out. We must know what our enemies are thinking and doing if we are to fight them effectively.

This 162 page thick glossy magazine has far more useful information in it than the average anarcho rag. This is a really comprehensive account of the global and globalized economy, with economic industrial and financial sector breakdowns, and country by country guides to prospects and past performance. There are also articles looking at the major issues that are likely to affect us all (the Euro, American economic downturn, technology and science) and some that are interesting as well - the article on the scale of the American Prison system is awesome for those who don't know that shortly America will have imprisoned its' 2 millionth person. Also of interest was the diary section on page 25; not only does it list a variety of key news events it also prints a listing of key financial and political meetings for 2001. Whether its the World economic forum meeting in Davos, Switzerland that saw clashes between police and protesters or the upcoming G8 summit in July at Genoa, Italy, the December EU summit in Brussels, or the IMF/ World Bank meeting in Washington DC this October. Thanks for the activists calendar guys.

What is more surprising - and we're still a bit stunned - is the assessment running in several key articles throughout the magazine that the "anti-capitalists have scored notable successes and their influence, with governments and with international institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, is growing." (Clive Crook - an apt name for a capitalist p.15)

Other articles include good analysis of NGO's by Adam Roberts, non governmental organisations and their relationship to activism and political influence. Plus the great idea (for capitalists) that it is better to co-opt them than to ignore or take them on. We feel slightly differently!

They also believe according to Adrian Wooldridge, that the political environment for capitalism "will continue to get more hostile, as anti-globalisation protests roll on and international organisations bend over backwards to appease the protesters... many business people dismiss these protests as nothing more than a distraction. They argue that globalisation is being driven by technology and that there is nothing that anybody, including Molotov Cocktail throwing demonstrators, can do to put the genie back in the bottle. This is profoundly wrong. Globalisation depends on political will as well as technological innovation. And political will is rapidly weakening" (p.115-16) Lets do all we can to make this observation come true!!

ANARCHISM: ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST

Albert Meltzer. (AK Press £3.95)

This 20-year-old title has been re-printed by AK Press, and as political introductions go, this is as good a place as any to start. Meltzer could be a rambling writer, but kept in a straight line by the books format of short chapters under specific headings, he flourishes. Buy it.

BASH THE FASH- ANTI-FASCIST RECOLLECTIONS 1984-93

by K Bullstreet (£2 from Class War or from Kate Sharpley Library, BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX)

This is history written in a different style to the world of dull academia or sober suited politicians. Informal, biased and very, very amusing K Bullstreet takes us into the necessary world of anti-fascism. Our favourite stories included the black guy who jumped in for BNP member Derek Beackon because he thought he was being mugged, and the member of Liverpool AFA who not only no platformed NF member Derek Holland but relieved him of his watch!

Some groups and individuals may well quibble that their group or action does not receive sufficient coverage and the text does certainly contain the odd error (The Macc Lads for example were never a Blood & Honour band and nothing is gained by saying they were) but we recommend this pamphlet as the first in hopefully a series of pamphlets covering anti-fascist history.



BILLY ELLIOTT
(PG, all main cinemas)

Lets face it the character of Billy was always going to have a hard time, regardless of the interest in ballet. He seems to have been a pretty weird kid before he got interested in that or discovered his best mate liked dressing up in his sisters dresses and wearing his mam's make-up. With those qualities in a Sunderland pit village perhaps boxing was not a bad choice in the first place!

Billy's gravitation toward dance and ballet in particular is essentially a story of an individual swimming against the tide of expected and required behaviour. Earlier explorations of this theme have found some hapless lad expected to join his brothers and dad down the mine, when he aspires to stay on at school/go to university/be a writer etc

In Billy Elliot this story is updated using not the hard labour of pit work but the struggle on the picket line during the 84-5 strike. It remains a story of working class hard rootin tootin fighting manhood set against the more genteel intellectualism of the arty and creative world of the would be escapee.

Some on the left (most notably the *Weekly Worker* and *Freedom*) have seriously savaged the film as being anti-working class. Violent miners are contrasted to the nice middle class world of ballet and the arts. I did not get this at all. This is not a film about the miners strike, the strike provides the backdrop, but it is just a backdrop after all.

The police rampaging through the villages and occupying pit communities is well presented, as is the solidarity and strength of the miners collective resistance. I watched this film in Sheffield and there is no doubt which side the audience identified with.

Reviews such as the above pose the question to what extent anyway is ballet an entirely middle class passion. The girls in the film were obviously not meant to be middle class, their ballet school was situated in the heart of the community, the Miners Wefare, with the strike raging all around them.

Most big pit villages have dance/ballet schools - the students being predominantly daughters of miners but the odd lad would not be unheard of. At Hatfield Colliery in Doncaster the Pye School of Dance is one of the most accomplished in the region, founded and instructed by the daughter of a miner and located in her native pit village deliberately. The students who were

VERTICAL LIMITS
(PG, Most main cinemas)

A film full of action and mayhem. A trip to the mountains where there is no hero, love story or big stars. A good insight into the climbing world and the places all the rich businessmen go for their holidays.

"The technology is there to make a DNA database for every one of the UK's 60 million citizens"
Prof Sir Alec Jeffreys of the University of Leicester, who devised a system to identify criminals from the unique characteristics of their genes. 17 years late, we enter the Big Brother state.

daughters of miners were taught free of charge during the strike.

Having said all that I got a sick feeling as the film opens portraying Billy's dad as a violent brooding man, and feared this would be the caricature of the miners as a whole. Thankfully it was not. Instead it was his dad's way of coping with the loss of his wife, left with two lads to look after in the middle of a long strike and no money he had more than most on his plate before the youngest lad starts skipping the light fandango. He comes through it all and thankfully without becoming a scab.

Given that location was obviously important to the film, the makers could have worked harder on getting actors from the region. With a couple of exceptions dialect was purged from the film, as it always is in films focused on Tyne or Wear. You only have to look at the verbally filleted accents of Byker Grove to see what I mean. We are eventually left with that 'north of somewhere' voice that does not come from anywhere but is meant to convey the impression it is not from down south. This is a good film, worth seeing more than once. I have reservations about the extent of the reaction to the ballet classes. The strike had opened up closed pit communities to new tolerances and other ways of living, at least for a time. When the Hatfield main branch of the NUM was adopted by the LSE Gay and Lesbian Society and their collections helped keep miners kids fed it made some people think. Within a year the Hatfield Main NUM branch banner was on a gay rights march in London. The proposal to do this brought laughter and a few raucous wise cracks but was passed unanimously, something inconceivable a few years before.

In times of collective struggle new found awareness and wider consciousness, as well as individual and family relationships expand. Sadly many of these attitudes have retreated with that defeat of social and class solidarity, and more atomised and jaundiced views have crept back.

Given this, its obvious that social, political and sexual values ebb and flow with the currents of class relationships. I would like to think that a lad during the strike aspiring to a career in ballet would have got more support than that initially advanced to Billy, not least because the weight of the women's support movement was considerable and influential. Disgracefully that movement was totally absent from the film.

See 'Billy Elliot'. But leave the volume on dialectical materialism at home.

RAMRAIDERS
by Stephen Richards (£7.99, Mirage Publishing, PO Box 161 Gateshead, NE8 4WW)

A top-notch book written in a no nonsense style that regular Class War readers and supporters will undoubtedly love. Who cares about the Queen's English, it's the content and the message that is important! The book has some classic detailed descriptions of ramraids - some successful, some not so successful. One brilliant tale is where they do a shop, wait for it to be boarded up, then go back and do it again the same night. Classic and proof that lightning does strike twice!

Great book, shame about the fashion sense - read it and you will see what we mean!

HACKNEY HECKLER
(Issue 3, local newssheet, SAE from PO Box 38, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E8 2NS)

As Hackney Council and its crises unfold, local opposition takes on new forms and formats. The Hackney Heckler takes on a newssheet role promoting local events and demonstrations (congratulations to the workers who burnt their new terms and conditions outside Hackney Town Hall) an expose role - look out for Council leader Jules Pipe riding round in a taxi at council expense - and an ability to grasp nettles.

Hackney's latest scandal, involving the rigging of council elections by certain Jewish politicians in Stamford Hill, has gone largely unreported in the national media and entirely unreported in the revolutionary media. They fear of the conservative left is that to comment on these issues in detail plays into the hands of the extreme right. The Hackney Heckler rightly points out that to sweep these issues under the carpet plays into the hands of the extreme right.

Since the rise of the anti-capitalist movement the most significant omission has been the failure to translate into reality the slogan "Think global, Act Local" Perhaps the Hackney Heckler is a first step down that road.

MINUS TIDES VOL 12 NO.1
(3\$ from Box 47, Denman Island, BC, Canada, VOR 1TO)

This magazine is produced from a small community (pop 1100) in rural Canada. So small they have no police in their own community!

Other problems emerge though - loneliness, boredom etc the things that have historically persuaded people to drift to the big towns and cities.

Minus Tides takes an eclectic approach covering anarchism, literature, poetry and 'life' but, as so often with this style of production, it ends up pleasing some but failing to satisfy everyone.

WORKING CLASS FIRST! THE WORKING CLASS AND ANTI-CAPITALISM

by Jacob Pugh (£2 from AK Press, PO Box 12766, Edinburgh EH8 9YE plus 60p postage)

This timely pamphlet contains much that is up Class War's street containing strong criticism of middle class environmentalists and reaching a conclusion that will have many so-called revolutionaries biting their pillows in horror "the struggle for working class affluence should be at the centre of left wing struggle".

Such clear, non-moralistic language is a breath of fresh air, although other sections of the pamphlet fail to pack a punch. Mr Pugh seems a bit to taken with sociological studies, and talk of "the left" may look very redundant indeed in a decade's time. The publishers, Anti-Capitalist Debate Press, may be ones to watch if these themes are further developed.

ORGANISE... TO RESIST
Dec. 2000. No. 3. Magazine of the Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation (Australia). \$1 P.O. Box 231, Westgate, NSW 2048, Australia.

This little number is typical of fundamentalist conservative anarchist thought and obsessions. On page 3 downtrodden workers are encouraged to think about an obscure "Anarcho Quiz" - we kid you not. This Australian mag - presumably for the working class in Australia - doesn't deal with any Australian issues until the bottom half of p.5. We would like to see more emphasis on class struggle participation and action locally rather than a tour de force of worldwide anarchist titbits - however useful. We've read about the Makhno book before so we didn't need a two page review [even though we love this history]. Overall this is characteristic of the anarchist illusion that we can turn the anarchist *ideal* into a *strategy*, when the real world needs a more considered approach.

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Class War Merchandise

To order Class War merchandise, please tot up the total cost of the items you want, add 10% to cover postage and then send a cheque/Postal Order to the London address made out to London Class War **only!**

Australian Class War also have an excellent new merchandise catalogue available on request from: Class War, Suite 20, 26 Princes Highway, Sydney 2224, Australia.

Books

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The thought behind the anger - our most detailed political statement to date. £4.50 or 3 for £10

Anarchist by *Ian Bone*

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Excellent video about the fans of the staunchly anti-fascist club St. Pauli. £5.00

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Writings and poetry by US anarchist prisoner Harold H Thompson. Don't worry - There's not too much poetry. £1.50.

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Issue 3 of the magazine that takes a long hard look at the grubby world of politics and the secret state. Required reading for all serious anti-fascists. £3.00

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The first of a series of recollections from active anti-fascists. £2.00

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Essential reading for anybody looking to support the campaign to free Mark £2.00

Animal

Issues 2, 3, 4 are still available of the class struggle magazine with the big heart and low quality production values! Issue 3 contains a core article on the Countryside Alliance. 50 pence each.

Between The Riots

Hilarious magazine compiled from when Ipswich CW edited the Class War Supporters bulletin. Fun for all the family for 50p. £0.50.

Filth

We have issues 3,4 and 5 of this hilarious Viz-style comic. Why not get all three for 50p! £0.20 each.

Class War back issues

Are you missing copies of your favourite newspaper? For details of available back-issues contact London Class War. £0.20, 3 for £0.50.

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Please send an SAE to get the free monthly bulletin of London Class War.

21st Century Class War - Introduction to the Fed

Manifesto into the new millenium. £1.00.

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by John McArthur. This pamphlet gives an account of the JJ Fast Food Workers Strike in Tottenham from 1995-6. £1.50.

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by EC Fry. Brilliant working class history of a British émigré deported from Australia and refused re-entry to the land of his birth in 1917! £1.

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Small metal badge

Smart skull and crossbones. £1.50

Sew on patch

Various designs. £0.30

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Justice for Mark Barnsley

£5.00

Class War Biffa Bacon Design

Light Grey - to clear for new stock £3.00

Records

NEW - Days Of Coma -

7 inch 4 track EP by Swedish metal band Mindblaster. £2.

Xmas!

NEW - Class War Xmas Cards

£1.50 for 10 Class War designs. Envelopes provided - ideal for your boss this Xmas.

Mind Your Language

A translation of the "This Is Class War" column in this paper, and a translation of the subscription details are now available in Swedish. We hope to make Class War literature available in further languages over the next few years.

We are also looking into the possibility of making Class War available on cassette tape from next year.



Stickers - 50 for £1



LETTERS

WE PRINT'EM COS YOU WRITE'EM

SOMEBODY VERY GREEN WRITES

Have you noticed the weather recently? Bit wet isn't it? What exactly will it take to get into your Sun Wanker brains that "environmental agendas" are not a plot to push up the price of petrol and price working people out of their cars? Global warming is actually happening, just as scientists have been predicting for years. Of course we know they are all a bunch of pig-ignorant academics (some of them can even count to 10!)

So the car is an expression of people's needs is it? I suppose this includes the 'needs' of the shit-brained anti-social morons who get their kicks driving around blasting out mindless babble at all hours? And you complain about church bell-ringers!

I know that statistics go straight over your heads but I'll spell out a couple of sums and you can ask your careworker if they make sense:

There are 20 million vehicles in Britain today or roughly 1 to every 3 people. In the world (I mean the real world not the teletubbyland virtual reality you inhabit) there are about 500 million, or one to every 12 people. In other words, if the whole world were provided with cars at the same level as Britain, there would be four times the number of vehicles that now exist. The world's eco-system is going down the crapper fast enough as it is. What would happen if everyone had access to a car? And spare me the motorwankers fairy tales about electric cars and cars that can run on water. First 'electric' cars have been 'on the way' for at least 30 fucking years - where are they? Even if they were practicable, they would not do that much for the environment - electricity needs to be generated somehow. As for the other bollocks, Santa Claus does not exist kiddies, time to grow up.

A freedom that cannot be given to everyone is not a freedom but a privilege. So get it straight: when you and all the other brainless tossers (including the cretins who thought it would be a nice little earner to feed unsaleable meat to herbivores) start trumpeting the corporate slogans of the motor lobby, you are defending privilege not freedom.

Actually I think there are signs that the message is beginning to sink in. The rainstorms probably gave even farmers and lorry drivers pause for thought, which is why the second wave of fuel protests fizzled out. In the end Mother Nature carries more clout than Tony Blair, scientists or eco-freaks. Just maybe people will start to see sense about the real 'price of motoring' before it gets to be more than we can all pay.

'Speaker To Animals'

CW Reply: Readers will not be surprised to know that the entire text of this letter was written in capital letters, the sure sign of a NUTTER! Just who or what is a "motorwanker"? Do you honestly believe that all people who use cars are wankers? If so you're talking about nearly everybody in Britain, clearly nonsense. As for electric cars being fairy tales - have you never seen a milk float?

We all know there are a spectacular amount

of wankers in the green movement. People who do actually *work* with corporate capitalism. Are you seriously saying that if the likes of Zac Goldsmith or Jonathan Porritt give up the use of their cars the earth is a better place? We think it would be a better place when those two bastards are hanging from the nearest piece of mahogany. Your letter typifies the apocalyptic and near religious approach of many greens that sadly goes unchallenged by Anarchists.

It is interesting that you do not mention public transport once in your diatribe. Are people not supposed to travel in your green new world? It is not beyond the wit of human beings to organise free, sustainable public transport. It is sadly beyond the wit of capitalists as they are unable to do anything unless they can make money out of it.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS?

As the crisis of world capitalism deepens the time is right for us to offer a more extensive vision of a libertarian communist future.

The fuel blockade in Britain (and Europe) has made perfectly feasible our concept of public transport development. Such a programme would immediately employ those made redundant by the collapse of sections of the road haulage industry. This is especially valid considering the needs of the rural population.

As 25,000 farms have gone bankrupt in recent times we can offer solutions to the ex-farming community, something that the 'Countryside Alliance' cannot do. We can secure farming by the establishment of farming co-operatives and workers controlled food outlets. Our aim is of course to collectivise all farming where appropriate. We would not deprive anyone of their accommodation but we can guarantee equality for all land workers including former large-scale owners (CW Ed: Getting a bit soft here!) This conforms to our policy of offering former owners and managers of industry the equality of comradeship in labour.

Of course our perennial aim is the abolition of the stock exchange and the establishment of workers control of industry. We would bring into public ownership all transport, engineering, building, education, and production. In education we will guarantee the safety from violence of all children by establishing special needs schools for disturbed children. This will put parents minds at rest because it will not matter where their children are educated.

All work would be considered as equal. Medical, education and transport services would be raised to the highest standards. This form of social security will appeal to all sections of society including the middle classes. Those unused to physical labour will be introduced to such work at their own pace because they will not be required

to operate under capitalism's time and motion procedures.

Obviously the chemical industry would have to turn its attention to organic production and the safe disposal of contaminants.

AC, Edinburgh.

CW Reply: The difficulty with concepts of "public ownership" is that people think immediately of the former nationalised industries. All of those industries had the same boss versus worker ethos, the same drive for profit and the same obsession with hierarchy as the private companies they replaced. For us to advance we must make changes to our lives now - not in some distant future - to show ourselves and our enemies that we can create a world for all. This means struggle in our own working class communities to improve the economic and political standing of our class.

COMPETITION CORNER

Dear Class War, I would also like to congratulate Chris's dad on 20 years of signing on (Class War letters, issue 80) However I've heard of someone who beats our Geordie friend by a fair old margin. It seems there is an old girl living in London who was photographed wearing an ATS uniform and holding a spanner over the open bonnet of a car in 1945. This was the last time she was witnessed doing anything remotely resembling work. For the last 56 years she has done nothing yet has wanted for none of the good things in life. Her record of bone idleness is to be celebrated in 2002 by the issue of commemorative plates which will be bought by commemorating mugs all over Britain.

Sorry Chris, your dad will have to do fuck all for at least another thirty years to catch up with the record of this sponging bastard and her family of inbred malcontents. Mind you, I hope I'm around to see him do it. The last northeastern lad who got an award for doing bugger all was Jackie Charlton, ex Ireland manager and country 'sports' fan.

Ronnie, Cheshire.

CW Reply: Anybody wanting to get involved in fucking up the 2002 celebrations should get in touch via the usual address. Lets show the Queen next year that her subjects really are revolting!

COMMUNITY CHOIR

Dear Class War, One of the saddest things about mass protest at the start of the 21st Century is the lack of a decent sing song. The dominance of "what do we want" type chants is a great way of deflating everybody and is shit. Perhaps Class War could remedy this by starting a lyrics section? It could confirm old favourites and new numbers.

Here's a little ditty that went about in Prague on S26. Its called Blue Group 2000 and should be sung in a Johnny Cash style:

*Petrol is a firey thing and it burns every fucking thing
Armed with our desire, we produced a wall of fire
It started in Botic Vale*

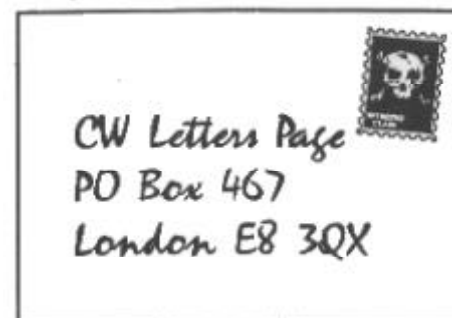
Someone threw a Molotov Cocktail

And they burned, burned, burned the lines of police

And they burned, burned, burned the lines of filth

W.E. Bam

CW Reply: One of the best developments in recent years has been the rise of Samba bands and drummers on actions as they give it a bit of backbone and make it possible to change the direction of a crowd. One of the failures on May Day 2000 was the band not being around to draw the crowd away from the trap at Trafalgar Square. As for old songs we are rather partial to Harry Roberts Is Our Friend!





Arsenal Sign Englishman!

Bizarre rumours have been circulating in the football world that Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has signed an Englishman. We at Class War are happy to reproduce photographic evidence that the Gunners have signed somebody famous for their excellent shooting!



hat trick hero!

ECONOMIC CLEANSING

£15! That's how much it costs to watch Leyton Orient in the 3rd Division. I currently reside in Germany, where my local team is ex-European Champions Borussia Dortmund. To get in to a state of the art stadium and watch a top European game costs 18 Deutschmarks. At today's exchange rate of roughly DM 3.2 to the pound, that works out at just under £6.

The truth is that for years us footie fans, 90% of whom are working class, have been treated like shit until a few corporate scum decided to jump on the football bandwagon. Now increasingly we cannot afford to support our own clubs - they have been snatched from our hands by the executive fan.

Pre-Hillsborough where in the world could you pay a tenner to get herded like sheep from the minute you left the bus, penned into a cage for two hours and with sub-standard catering and laughable toilet facilities. At one ground now probably a supermarket (Hello Reading FC) the 'toilet' amenities for the away fans were in fact a brick wall with a trough at the bottom. Could you imagine buying a ticket for a West End show and being treated in the same manner? Don't think so!

Let's face it standards have improved 200%. But at what cost? Thanks to the various satellite and cable companies we now have the glorious game six or seven days a week. The increased ticket prices and the difficulty in obtaining tickets for some games mean the only way to be guaranteed to see your team is to subscribe to one of

these companies.

With the BBC losing "Match of the Day" how long before we are priced out of the market, not just at the turnstile but also by satellite subscription charges. As with England's game in Finland, more and more games will become pay per view. What next after that? Will they try to charge us to listen the radio commentary? The next World Cup is next year in Japan and South Korea. Their TV companies want to charge the BBC and ITV £175 million for the rights, which they have refused to pay. So whether any of the home nations qualify or not, we might not be watching!

Back home, with the grass roots ostracised, the rich kids in their £30 seats will eventually get bored with football and jump on the next bandwagon. Then we will see empty stadia and still spiralling ticket prices so as to meet the wages of already overpaid primadonnas.

Our solution? A maximum wage. Leyton Orient Chairman Barry Hearn recently stated that Roy Keane's wages at Manchester United for one week were the same as the cost of running Leyton Orient for the year. If each club is budgeted to X amount per week, they could afford to lower ticket prices, enticing the masses back to their local football ground - the hub of the community.

Let's reclaim the game. Some clubs are already making inroads by electing supporters on to the board to liase with directors. We want a fuck of a lot more than that, but as a first step it will do!

A Ticket To Ride The Gravy Train

Everybody knows that since the creation of the Premier League and the imposition of all seater stadiums following the Taylor report, getting tickets for top football matches is pretty tough. Given this we were staggered to read that new performance rewards among Britain's 60,000 Ministry of Defence civil servants will include Premier League football tickets.

This means that not only is it harder for the working class fan to get tickets, but as taxpayers, we are actually paying for other people to go to the game instead of us!

Belfast Bhoy

It will be interesting to see how the Northern Ireland football authorities handle the campaign of sectarian abuse directed at Northern Ireland midfielder Neil Lennon. Lennon was booed and abused throughout Northern Ireland's friendly defeat by Norway in March, despite being one of the best midfielders ever to play for the country. Loyalists make up virtually the entire Northern Ireland support and Loyalist bigots for the heinous crime of being a Celtic player targeted Lennon.

The previous Celtic player to be capped for Northern Ireland, Anton Rogan, hardly set the football world alight as a player, and this helped ensure the Irish FA could sweep such abuse under the carpet. Lennon however, is the sort of player who teams are built around and journalists want to speak to day in day out.

Rather obviously, football in Northern Ireland mirrors the wider society of Northern Ireland. If Northern Ireland's football supporters have a problem with a player of Lennon's ability it tells us quite a bit about Northern Ireland and quite a lot about the nature of loyalism.

BAD PENNY TURNS UP!

The lunatics really have taken over the asylum in the cricket world. With dozens of top players under investigation for match fixing who should be heading the International Cricket Council's Anti-Corruption Unit but Sir Paul Condon. Yes the very same Paul Condon who was Chief Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and before that Chief

Constable of Kent. Condon's appointment to the ICC seems to prove perfectly the old adage that there is no situation so bad that the arrival of a police officer won't make it worse!

"I don't want to give it to her. She's horrible."

Five year old Anna Engstrom, from Suffolk, when asked to give a bouquet of flowers to Princess Anne. What a well brought up child!

 **DON'T MISS OUT**



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